

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 02287 100729Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
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INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, SW  
SUBJECT: SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC YOUTH CONFERENCE DOMINATED BY MIDDLE  
EAST AND WAGE-EARNER FUND ISSUES

1. SUMMARY: THE SSU (SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION)  
HELD ITS TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE IN STOCKHOLM, MAY 28-JUNE 2.  
FEATURED SPEAKERS WERE THE OUTGOING AND INCOMING SSU CHAIRMEN,  
LARS ENGQVIST AND JAN NYGREN, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIRMAN  
OLOF PALME, AND TRADE UNION LEADER GUNNAR NILSSON. ISSUES  
DOMINATING THE PROCEEDINGS WERE "ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY" AND,  
SURPRISINGLY, THE MIDDLE EAST, BOTH INSTANCES IN WHICH SSU  
TOOK CONTROVERSIAL POSITIONS FAR OUT OF LINE WITH PARTY ELDERS.

2. MIDDLE EAST: THE ISSUE STIRRING UP THE GREATEST CONTROVERSY,  
THOUGH NOT INTENDED TO BE A PRINCIPAL CONVENTION TOPIC,  
WAS THE MIDDLE EAST. THE CONVENTION DELEGATES REJECTED THEIR  
OWN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S DRAFT RECOMMENDATION, ADOPTING  
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INSTEAD A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE CESSATION OF ISRAEL'S  
EXISTENCE AS AN INDEPENDENT STATE TO BE REPLACED BY A  
NEW SECULAR STATE OF MUSLIMS, CHRISTIANS, AND JEWS.  
OLOF PALME, IN A SUBSEQUENT SPEECH TO THE CONVENTION  
CALLED THE SSU PROPOSAL UNREALISTIC AND A PRESCRIPTION  
FOR A "BLOODBATH." PALME REITERATED THE FUNDAMENTAL  
SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC TENET THAT BOTH THE ISRAELIS AND

PALESTINIANS HAVE RIGHTS TO STATES OF THEIR OWN.

3. ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY: OUTGOING SSU CHAIRMAN, LARS ENGQVIST, MADE HIS VALDICTORY SPEECH A HARSH CRITIQUE OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC POLICY ON WAGE-EARNER FUNDS. HE CALLED FOR LEGISLATION PROVIDING FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYEE POWER IN SWEDEN'S LARGER COMPANIES. ENGQVIST INSISTED THAT EMPLOYEES WOULD NOT HAVE PATIENCE TO WAIT THE DECADES IT MIGHT TAKE TO ACCUMULATE SUFFICIENT PROFITS TO WIELD REAL INFLUENCE UNDER THE CURRENT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC SCHEME FOR WAGE-EARNER FUNDS. BOTH OLOF PALME AND GUNNAR NILSSON, IN THEIR RESPECTIVE CONVENTION ADDRESSES, COUNSELED PATIENCE ON THE ISSUE. PLAME RECOGNIZED THAT THE MAIN 1979 CAMPAIGN ISSUE WILL BE ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY BUT INFORMED THE AUDIENCE THAT SPECIFIC PLANS FOR WAGE-EARNER FUNDS WOULD REQUIRE TWO MORE YEARS TO FINALIZE. PUBLIC OPINION, PALME NOTED, STILL NEEDED CONVINCING THAT THE FUNDS ARE NECESSARY. LO'S GUNNAR NILSSON, WHO PREVIOUSLY HAD BEEN OUT IN FRONT OF PALME AND THE SDP ON THE FUND QUESTION, THIS TIME MARCHED PRICISELY IN TUNE WITH PALME. HE URGED THE SSU NOT TO LOSE STEP WITH PUBLIC OPINION AND NOT TO PUSH TOO HARD ON WAGE-EARNER FUNDS.

4. NEW SSU CHAIRMAN: THE SSU CHAIRMANSHIP HAS BEEN A QUICK TICKET TO SUCCESS IN THE SWEDISH SOCIETY. OF JAN NYGREN'S ELEVEN PREDECESSORS, THREE HAVE BECOME CABINET MINISTERS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OTHERS HAVE ALL HAD SUCCESSFUL CAREERS IN GOVERNMENT OR JOURNALISM. OUTGOING CHAIRMAN LARS ENGQVIST DEPARTS AFTER SIX YEARS OF SERVICE TO ASSUME A POSITION AS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF A PROVINCIAL NEWSPAPER. NYGREN, AGE 28, EMERGES FROM THE RUBBER FACTORIES OF TROLLHATTAN TO HEAD UP THE POLITICAL ORGANIZATION OF 73,000 MEMBERS. HE COMES WITH AN ESTABLISHED REPUTATION AND TWELVE YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AS POLITICAL ORGANIZER, ELECTION STRATEGIST, AND SPEECH WRITER. HE IS KNOWN TO BE RELAXED AND EXTROVERTED, WITH GOOD POLITICAL JUDGMENT AND A TELENT FOR ADMINISTRATION. HIS BID FOR OFFICE, WHICH AUTOMATICALLY ENTAILS A SEAT ON THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, WAS UNCHALLENGED.

5. COMMENT: PARTY ELDERS LIKE PALME AND NILSSON ARE OBVIOUSLY KEEPING A SHARPER AND MORE PRACTICAL EYE FOCUSED ON THE 1979 ELECTION THAN ON THE PARTY'S MORE ACTIVIST AND IDEALISTIC YOUTH. THE SSU STANDS ON THE MID-EAST AND WAGE-EARNER FUNDS MAY WELL REFLECT PREVAILING OPINION OF VOCAL YOUNG SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, BUT ARE FAR REMOVED FROM THE PARTY'S AND THE SOCIETY'S MAINSTREAM. THE LIBERAL PARTY'S YOUTH LEAGUE WAS QUICK TO CONDEMN THE SSU MID-EAST

POSITION, CALLING IT "ASTONISHING." THE CENTER PARTY YOUTH,  
WHO SUFFER FROM A MYOPIC PREOCCUPATION WITH THE EVILS OF  
NUCLEAR ENERGY, ARE DUE TO CONVENE NEXT WEEK.  
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014